



United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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NEWS RELEASE

September 1, 2005

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Ninth Circuit Selects Judges for Bankruptcy Appellate Panel

SAN FRANCISCO – Chief Judge Mary M. Schroeder of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has announced two appointments to the Ninth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel (BAP), which resolves appeals arising out of bankruptcy court decisions in nine western states and two Pacific Island jurisdictions.

Bankruptcy Judge Jim D. Pappas of the District of Idaho was appointed to the BAP for the first time, while Bankruptcy Judge Christopher M. Klein of the Eastern District of California, who has served on the BAP since 1998, had his appointment extended by three years.

Judge Pappas came onto the Idaho bankruptcy court in 1990 and was reappointed in 2004 to a second 14-year term. The District of Idaho's two bankruptcy judges handled approximately 9,000 cases in 2004. Judge Pappas served as the district's chief bankruptcy judge from 1993 to 2004. He maintains chambers in Boise, but conducts court in Twin Falls and Pocatello as well as in Boise.

Besides his regular caseload, Judge Pappas has assumed a number of responsibilities outside his district. He has served on the BAP as a *pro tem* judge on six occasions; assisted other districts as a visiting bankruptcy judge; participated in the circuit's workload equalization project; chaired the Ninth Circuit Conference of Chief Bankruptcy Judges; and served on a number of circuit and national committees.

Judge Pappas graduated from Idaho State University with a B.A. in Political Science in 1974. He completed his J.D. in 1977 at the University of Idaho where he was editor-in-chief of the *Idaho Law Review* from 1976 to 1977. He began his legal career in 1977, first as an associate and then as a partner, at the law firm of Green, Service, Gasser & Kerl in Pocatello before his appointment as a bankruptcy judge.

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Judge Klein has served as a bankruptcy judge for the Eastern District of California since 1988 and was reappointed to a second 14-year term in 2002. He maintains chambers in Sacramento. Judge Klein is a member of the Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules of the Judicial Conference of the United States and is its liaison member to the Advisory Committee on the Federal Rules of Evidence. His bankruptcy-related publications include: *Bankruptcy Rules Made Easy* (2001): *A Guide to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure that Apply in Bankruptcy*, 75 Am. Bankr. L.J. 35 (2001); *Bankruptcy Rules Made Easy: A Guide to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure that Apply in Bankruptcy*, 70 Am. Bankr. L.J. 301 (1996); *Emerging Harmless Innocent Omission Defense to Nondischargeability* under Bankruptcy Code § 523(a)(3)(A), 69 Am. Bankr. L.J. 33 (1995)(co-author).

Judge Klein received his B.A and M.A. from Brown University in 1969 and his J.D. and M.B.A. from the University of Chicago, where he was executive editor of *Law Review*. Judge Klein served on active duty for 10 years in the U.S. Marine Corps, was an artillery officer in Vietnam, and was a Judge Advocate in the Corps from 1977 to 1978. He ended his tour as a Lieutenant Colonel before taking a trial attorney position with the Department of Justice in 1978. Judge Klein entered private law practice in 1980 and was Deputy General Counsel for the National Railroad Passenger Corporation from 1983 to 1987 until his appointment to the bench.

The BAP, which is based in the Richard H. Chambers United States Court of Appeals Building in Pasadena, hears some 600 cases each year, roughly 60 percent of the appeals originating out of bankruptcy courts throughout the Ninth Circuit (district courts hear the remainder of the appeals). BAP judges are appointed by the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit. Other bankruptcy judges from around the circuit also serve on appellate panels on a pro tem basis.

The U.S. Courts for the Ninth Circuit consists of the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and the federal district and bankruptcy courts in 15 judicial districts serving nine western states and two Pacific Island jurisdictions.

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